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UNIVERSITY, Miss., April 6. -- The importance of business history in management decision making was stressed by Dr. Ralph W. Hidy of Harvard University in an address before the Southern States Forest History Conference here Thursday.

"Every decision maker should have a long term view," the dean of American business historians said. "He should want to know where he is in the stream of history."

The biographer of Standard Oil and the Great Northern railroad said Americans should have an opportunity to know more about the nation's empire builders than just a record of their "misdemeanors and mistakes."

He said that businessmen stand out as the "prime movers in organizational revolution" in our nation. He was critical of appeals for governmental regulation which has hamstrung certain industries, particularly transportation and communications. "These (regulations) have been the result of intra-industry disputes for the most part," he declared.

Only in recent years has the government given proper attention to the impact of change on industry, the Harvard historian noted. He said every step in the progress of man has hurt someone -- and will continue to do so.

(MORE)

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Dr. Hidy stressed the importance of business to government, "for business bears the brunt of the tax burden -- in American and elsewhere."

The forest history conference, one of four regional conferences being held throughout the nation, was sponsored by the Forest History Society in cooperation with the University of Mississippi and the W. T. Smith Lumber Co. of Chapman, Ala.

Activities began with the annual meeting of the board of directors and corporate members of the society. Dr. Hidy spoke at an invitational luncheon held at the Mississippi Center for Continuation Study.

After an afternoon tour of the University's Lumber Archives, a forest history seminar was held at the Continuation Center.

Panel moderator for the seminar was Dr. James W. Silver of Ole Miss, president-elect of the Southern Historical Society.

The panelists were Stanley F. Horn, editor of The Southern Lumberman; Dr. John H. Moore, director of the University Lumber Archives, and John Squires, manager of the Forestry Department of Mississippi Products, Inc.

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